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pt. 1

Hunter's Handbook Part I



Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Hon. Alan W. Pope
Minister

John R. Sloan
Deputy Minister



HUNTERS CODE OF ETHICS

I will consider myself an invited guest of the landowner, seeking his permission, and so conducting myself that I may be welcome in the future.

I will obey the rules of safe firearm handling and will courteously but firmly insist that others who hunt with me do the same.

I will obey all game laws and regulations, and will insist that my companions do likewise.

I will do my best to acquire those marksmanship and hunting skills which assure clean, sportsmanlike kills.

I will continuously upgrade my knowledge of wildlife, game and non-game species alike, and encourage others to respect wildlife.

I will support conservation efforts which can assure good hunting for future generations of Canadians.

I will pass along to younger hunters the attitudes and skills essential to be a responsible, safe, knowledgeable, and ethical hunter.

HUNTER'S HANDBOOK

PART I

A COMPLEMENTARY TEXT
TO THE PRESCRIBED
HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE
IN ONTARIO

Wildlife Branch

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HUNTING LICENCES

AGE

The minimum age requirement in Ontario is sixteen years, but a resident of Ontario may obtain a hunting licence at the age of fifteen with the written consent of both parents, or guardians. Every new hunter under twenty years of age must take a course in safe hunting and must pass an examination on the subject, as prescribed by law, before a hunting licence can be obtained. All hunters, applying for a hunting licence for the first time, must pass the required examination.

RESIDENT

For the purpose of licensing, a "Resident" means a person who has actually resided in Ontario for a period of at least seven months during the twelve months immediately preceding the time that his residence becomes material.

HOW TO GET A HUNTING LICENCE

There are only two ways to acquire a hunting licence in Ontario, viz: by providing proof of previous hunting experience in the form of an old or current licence issued by any Province, State or Country, or by successfully passing the required examination. The examination will be given by Hunting Licence Examiners of the Ministry of Natural Resources, appointed for this purpose.

Contact your local police department for information about the requirements for firearm ownership, Firearms Acquisition Certificates and Minor's Permits (for those under sixteen years of age).

INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of the Hunter Education Program is to assist you to develop the knowledge and skills essential to become a safe and ethical hunter.

To accomplish this you must understand the importance of:

- (1) safe and proper firearm handling,
- (2) respecting wildlife, private property and other users of the outdoors, and
- (3) the role that modern regulated hunting plays in wildlife management.

Hunting, although no longer a necessity for survival, has remained a legitimate and viable outdoor activity in today's society.

Hunting is an important aspect of wildlife management and provides many hours of recreation for thousands of people. Each year throughout Ontario, over 600,000 hunting licences are sold. Economic benefits to the people of Ontario are substantial as millions of dollars are spent annually for licences, travel, supplies and equipment.

Hunting has proven to be one of the safest forms of outdoor recreation and will continue to be so, if hunters conduct themselves in a safe and ethical manner.

Historically hunters were among the first conservationists. Their concerns about the welfare of wildlife have helped to identify problems such as the effect of environmental pollutants, habitat loss and abuse, and the plight of rare and endangered species.

They have been instrumental in initiating and supporting wildlife laws and their enforcement, wildlife research and management, parks and wildlife preserves, and Hunter Education Programs.

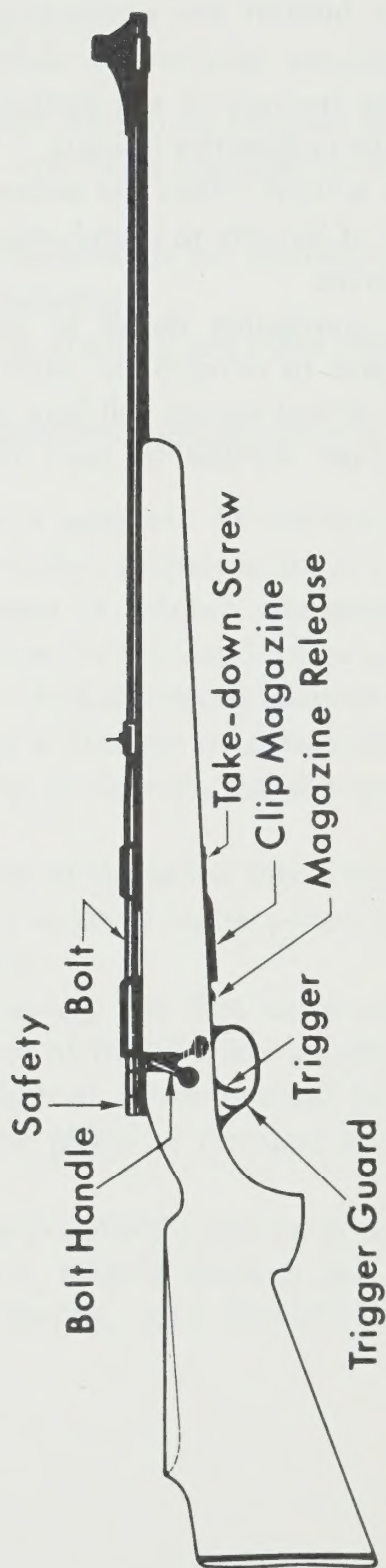
Today hunters are active supporters of Wildlife Federations and numerous sportsmen's clubs. Many have become Hunter Education Instructors and donate their time to conduct training courses for prospective hunters.

These actions reflect the sincere interest and dedication of the majority of hunters to sound management of our renewable wildlife resources.

Your continuing desire to improve your knowledge about wildlife and to develop the skills and attitudes essential to be a safe and ethical hunter will help ensure the continued availability of abundant wildlife to meet the needs of all the people of Ontario.

RIM FIRE RIFLE

(BOLT ACTION)

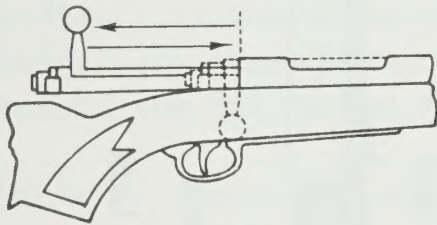


THE FIREARM

Nomenclature of Parts

Examine the accompanying diagram of a .22 bolt action rifle. Note the parts shown, the names of which will apply to most firearms. Study the diagram and the names of the parts. Knowledge of the terms used will enable you to discuss the subject of firearms intelligently.

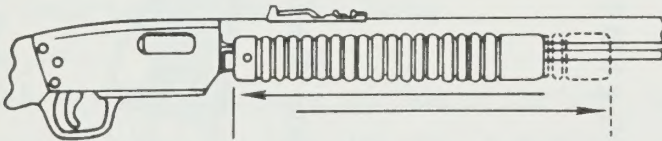
(i) **ACTION.** The breech mechanism of a firearm which loads and locks a cartridge in the chamber. Parts of this mechanism can fire the cartridge and extract and eject the empty cartridge case. Can also be called a “bolt.”



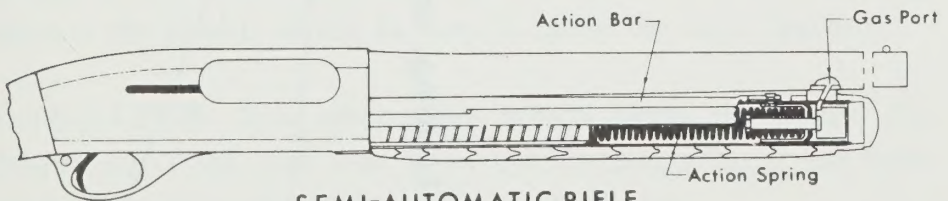
BOLT ACTION
(Right or Left Handed)



LEVER ACTION

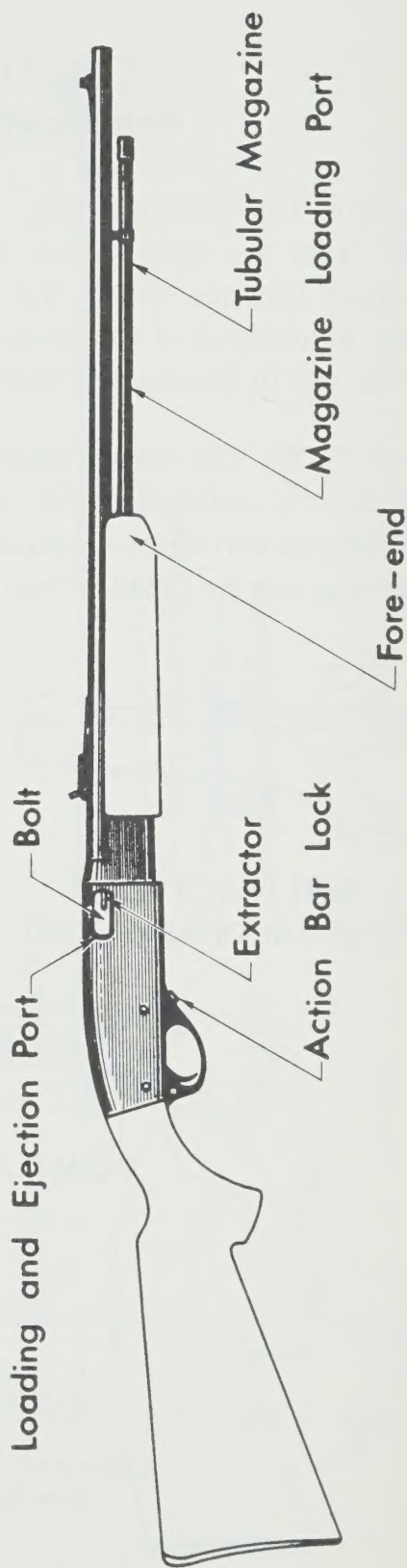


PUMP ACTION



SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE
(Gas Operated)

RIM FIRE RIFLE (SLIDE OR PUMP ACTION)



(ii) **BARREL.** A metal tube through which the bullet or shot is propelled toward the target. A rifle barrel has thicker walls than that of a shotgun. It contains lands and grooves, which impart a spin to the bullet, thus giving it stability on its way to the target. A shotgun barrel is smooth bored.

(iii) **BOLT.** (See “Action” above.)

(iv) **BORE.** The hole in the barrel of a firearm through which the bullet or shot passes. A shotgun barrel is smooth-bored. In a rifle barrel, it is the hole before the rifling grooves have been cut.

(v) **BREECH.** The rear end of the bore of a firearm where the cartridge is inserted in the chamber. Thus, if you “open the breech,” you move the bolt to the rear; or if you “close the breech,” you lock the bolt in the forward position.

(vi) **BUTT.** The rear end of the gunstock.

(vii) **BUTT PLATE.** A metal, rubber or plastic plate fastened to the butt. It is usually slightly curved so that it fits the shoulder when the firearm is mounted for firing.

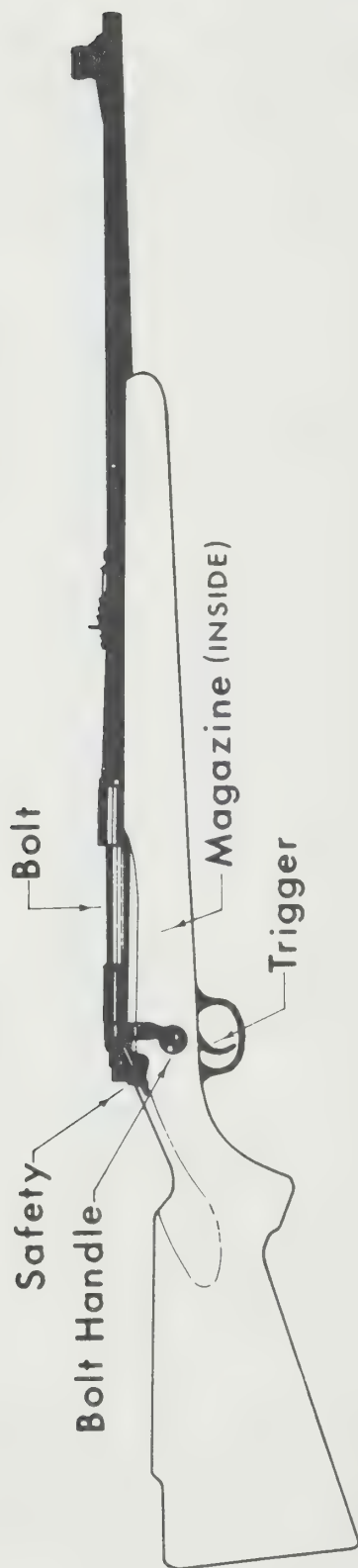
(viii) **CHAMBER.** The enlarged portion of the bore, to the rear of the barrel, in which the cartridge rests in position to be fired.

(ix) **THE CHOKE** is a constriction at or near the muzzle of a shotgun barrel which controls the distribution and number of shot at the target, which, in turn, is called the shot “pattern.”

(x) **EJECTOR.** The mechanism which ejects or throws the empty cartridge case free from the firearm, after it has been withdrawn from the chamber by the extractor.

CENTER FIRE RIFLE

(BOLT ACTION)



(xi) EXTRACTOR. A piece of metal, usually fastened to the bolt face, which fits over the rim of the cartridge when the latter is in the chamber. When the bolt is moved backward (breech opened), the extractor withdraws the cartridge from the chamber.

(xii) FIRING PIN. A tempered steel rod of small diameter, held backward in the bolt by means of a sear when the firearm is cocked, ready to fire. Pressure on the trigger releases the sear, permitting the firing pin to move forward rapidly (propelled by a spring) into contact with the primer in the cartridge, thus firing it.

(xiii) FORE-END. A wooden forward extension of the stock, projecting under the barrel, which offers a convenient handle to aid in pointing and supporting the firearm when aiming or firing. It also serves as insulation between the hand and a hot barrel when doing continuous or rapid firing.

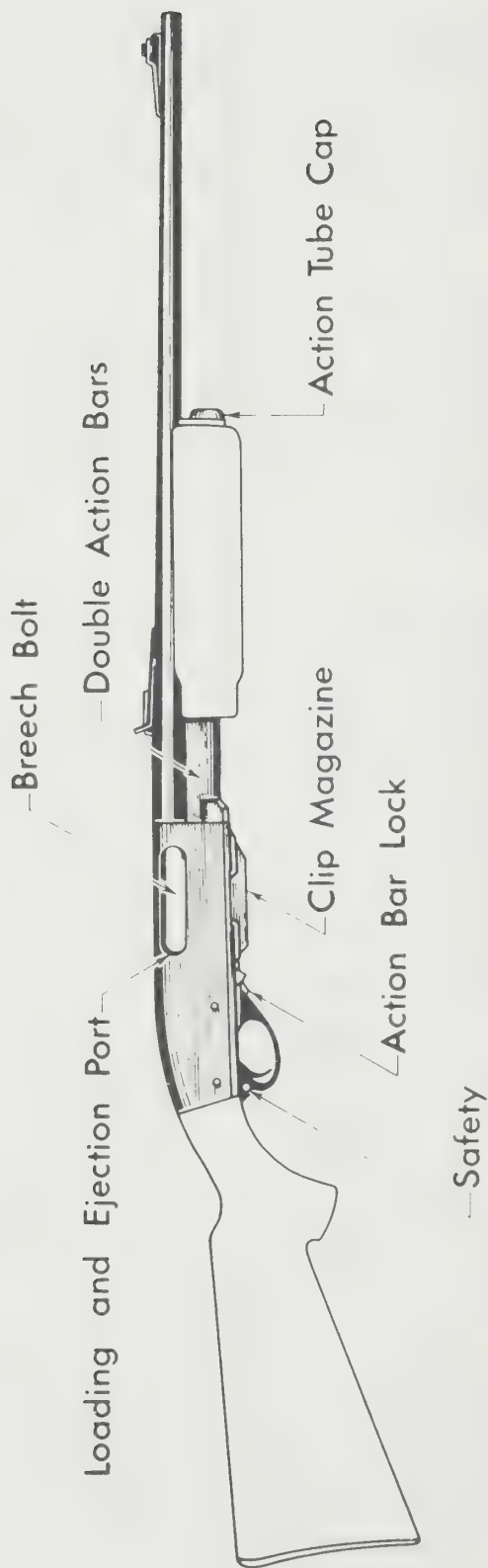
(xiv) GRIP. The small part of the stock, immediately back of the trigger-guard, which is gripped by the trigger hand when firing a gun.

(xv) GROOVES. The spiral grooves cut on the inside of a rifle barrel which form the *lands* in the barrel.

(xvi) HAIR TRIGGER. One which requires less than three pounds pressure to operate. It can be very dangerous, especially to an inexperienced shooter.

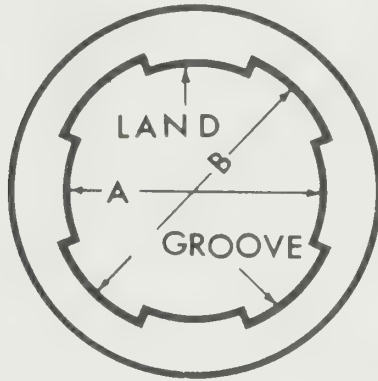
(xvii) LANDS. The raised portions on the inside of a rifle barrel which are left when the grooves are cut therein. These give a spin to the bullet as it passes down the barrel, imparting stability to the bullet in its flight to the target.

CENTER FIRE RIFLE (SLIDE OR PUMP ACTION)



A-BORE DIAMETER (TRUE CALIBRE)

B-GROOVE DIAMETER (BULLET DIAMETER)



(xviii) LOCK (Action-bolt). The firing mechanism of a rifle or shotgun.

(xix) MUZZLE. The front end of the barrel. The bullet or shot leaves the barrel from the muzzle. You will learn “controlling the muzzle.”

(xx) RECEIVER. The metal housing containing the action mechanism of a firearm.

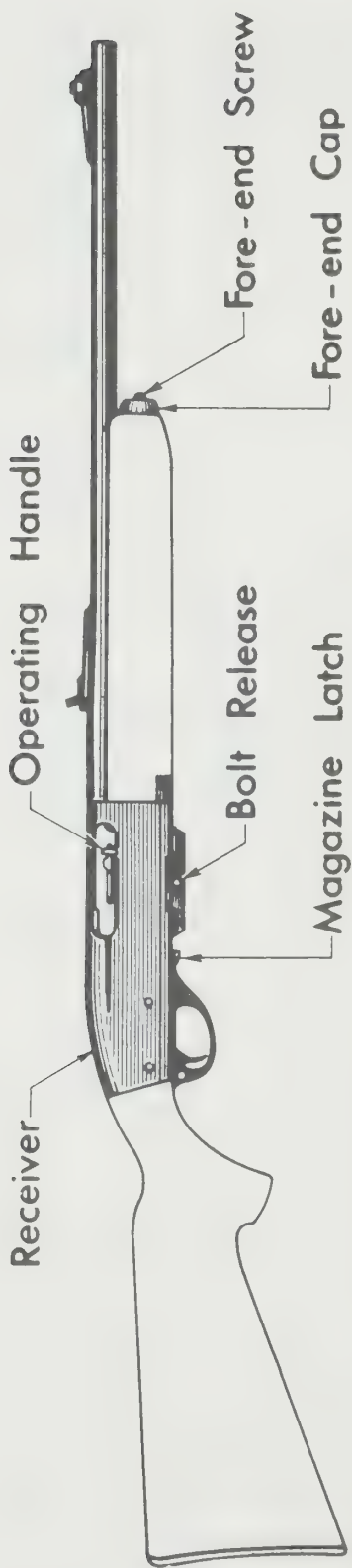
(xxi) RECOIL or “KICK” is created by the release of energy from gases as a result of igniting the gun powder in a cartridge or shell by firing.

(xxii) RIFLING. The lands and grooves in a rifle barrel.

(xxiii) SAFETY. A mechanical device designed to make the firing mechanism of a cocked firearm inoperative. Any mechanical device can be subject to failure; therefore, you must never depend entirely on any “safety.” The muzzle must always be controlled whether the safety is in operation or not.

CENTER FIRE RIFLE

(AUTO - LOADING)



(xxiv) SIGHTS. Devices used to guide the eye in aiming a rifle. There are several types. See chapter on "Sights and Sighting."

(xxv) STOCK. The wooden part of a firearm to which the receiver is attached. It is used for mounting the gun to the shoulder for aiming and firing.

(xxvi) THROAT. The forward portion of the chamber where it appears to meet the bore.

(xxvii) TRIGGER. A curved piece of metal attached to the underside of the firing mechanism of a firearm. It is used for releasing the firing pin when ready to fire.

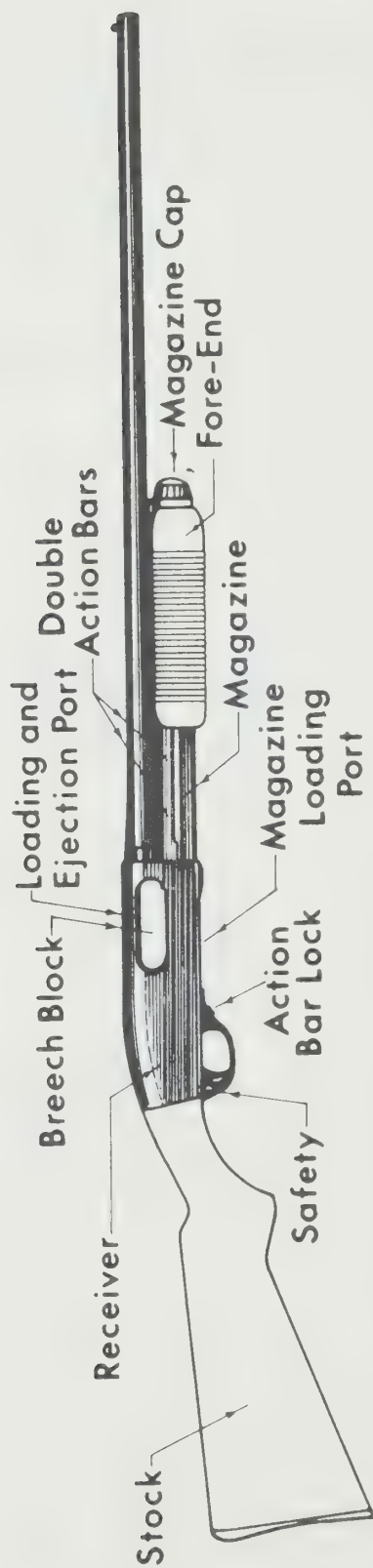
(xxviii) TRIGGER GUARD. A curved piece of metal fixed to the receiver and passing below the trigger. It is designed to prevent the trigger from being accidentally touched by finger or twigs while carrying.

To operate, any firearm must have an "action" to load and fire the cartridge, a "barrel" from which to expel the bullet or shot, and a "stock" with which to mount and fire the unit.

The safest rifle for an inexperienced shooter is a bolt action, preferably a single shot, because it is relatively easy to see at a glance if the action is open and unloaded. A single shot, of course, provides only one cartridge to check or clear.

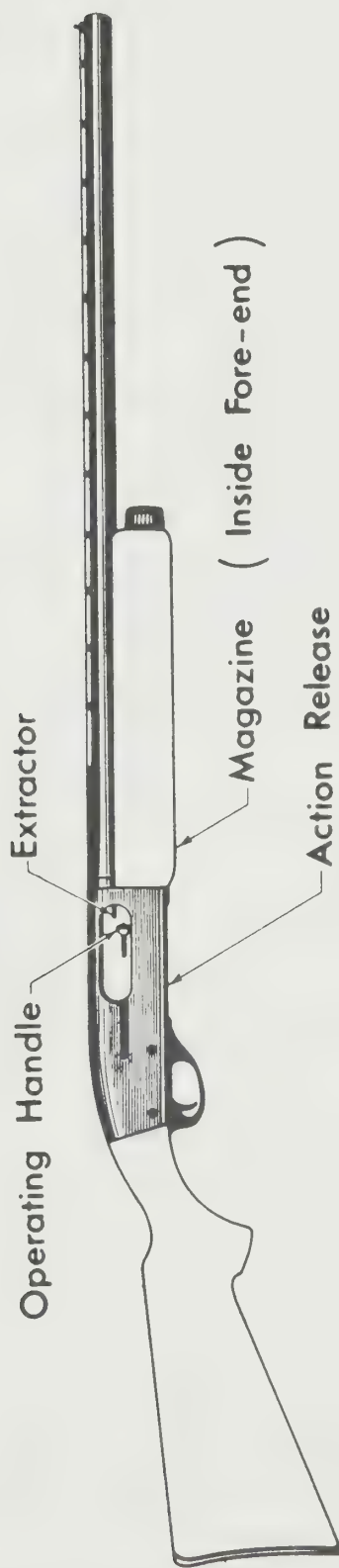
SHOTGUN

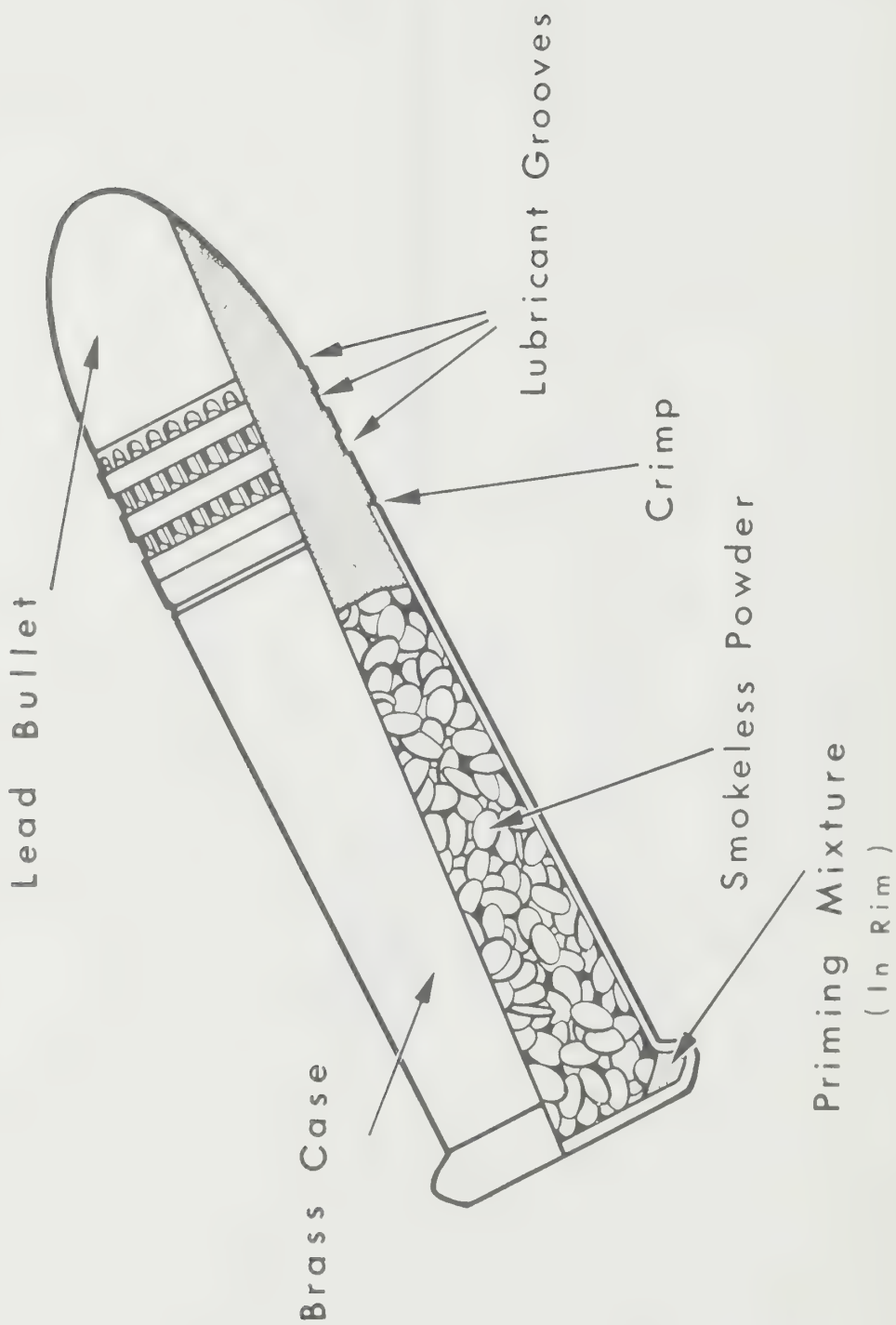
(SLIDE OR PUMP ACTION)



SHOTGUN

(AUTO - LOADING)





AMMUNITION

(i) RIMFIRE. A cartridge case with the priming in the rim. Modern rimfire cartridges are made in .22 short, long, and long rifle. A later development in this type of cartridge is the .22 Winchester Magnum. Although the first three mentioned may be fired in most rifles chambered for the .22 long rifle cartridge, the .22 Magnum is not interchangeable with them as it has a longer case of a slightly different diameter. Rimfire cartridges cannot be reloaded.

(ii) CENTRE-FIRE (high powered). A cartridge case with the priming in the centre of the base of the case, which is invariably "bottle-necked." The case is made of a harder metal than that of a .22 rimfire to withstand the greater pressure generated by the larger volume of powder with which a centre-fire cartridge is loaded. The bullets used may be of different weights in the same calibre and may have different features to enable them to expand on hitting game, i.e., "soft point," "hollow point," etc. Military ammunition can be procured in some calibres, but it is not suitable for hunting because military bullets are made so that they will not expand. Animals shot with this type of bullet will usually get away and die a lingering death, whereas the use of expanding bullets should ensure a quick kill.

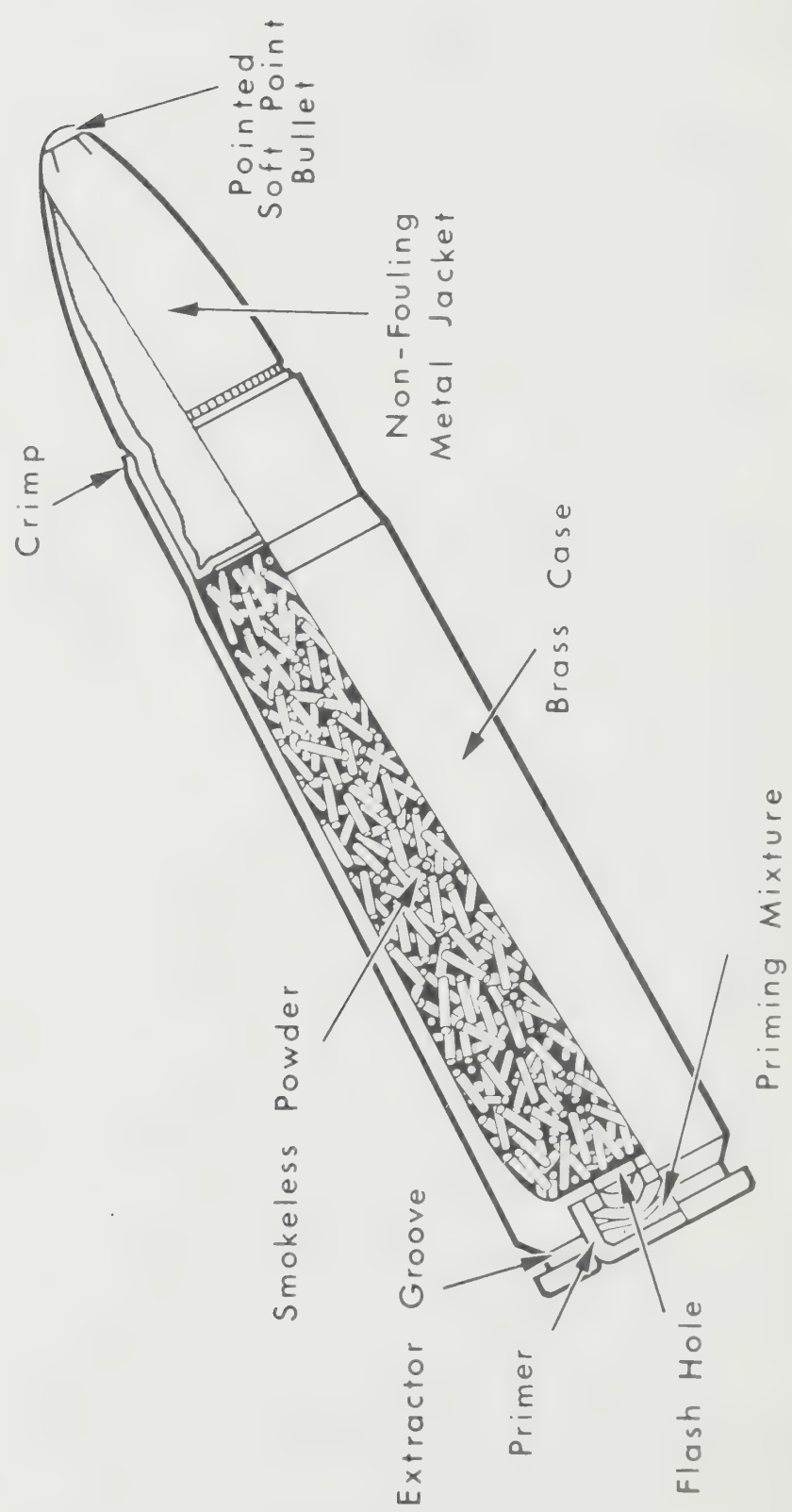
(iii) SHOT SHELLS have a centre-fire type of primer and a paper or plastic case containing powder, wad and shot.

KILLING RANGES

Know the killing range of the rifle or shotgun you are using and do not take shots beyond that range.

A good .22 target rifle, equipped with target sights, is one of the most accurate rifles up to 100 yards. Shots at game are effective up to 75 yards, if well placed. A .22 can be dan-

CENTER FIRE CARTRIDGE



gerous up to one mile. People have been killed with the tiny .22 short.

A 30.30 is reasonably accurate up to 150 yards and dangerous up to one and one-half miles.

Any bullet can ricochet when it hits water or any hard surface, but the .22, because of its low velocity, is particularly dangerous in this respect. A ricocheting bullet is a bullet "gone wild" because the best marksman can have no idea in what direction the bullet is travelling.

A 30.06, .308, or .270, etc., are accurate up to 500 yards in a good hunting rifle, and all are dangerous up to three miles.

A shotgun, using light shot, has an effective range up to 40 yards, but it can be dangerous up to 300 yards. The effective range of the same gun, using BB or SSG shot, is not more than 50 yards, but the heavier shot can be dangerous up to 400 yards.

Be sure of your back-stop. Once your brain tells your finger to touch the trigger, you cannot stop the succeeding action, nor can you recall the bullet on its way to the target. *Make sure of your target before you shoot.* Never shoot at the "sound" of moving brush or leaves.

AMMUNITION SIZES

The larger the number given to designate the size of a shotgun bore, the smaller the bore; i.e., a 16 gauge is smaller than a 12 gauge and a 20 gauge is smaller than a 16 gauge. It is dangerous to carry different gauges of shells mixed in your pocket when hunting. Probably 12 and 20 gauge are the two most dangerous sizes to be mixed together. A 20 gauge, when inserted in the chamber of a 12 gauge gun, will slip part way down the barrel. If a 12 gauge is inadvertently fired in the gun, the barrel will burst, with possibly fatal consequences. The 20 gauge, in this case, became an obstruction in the barrel.

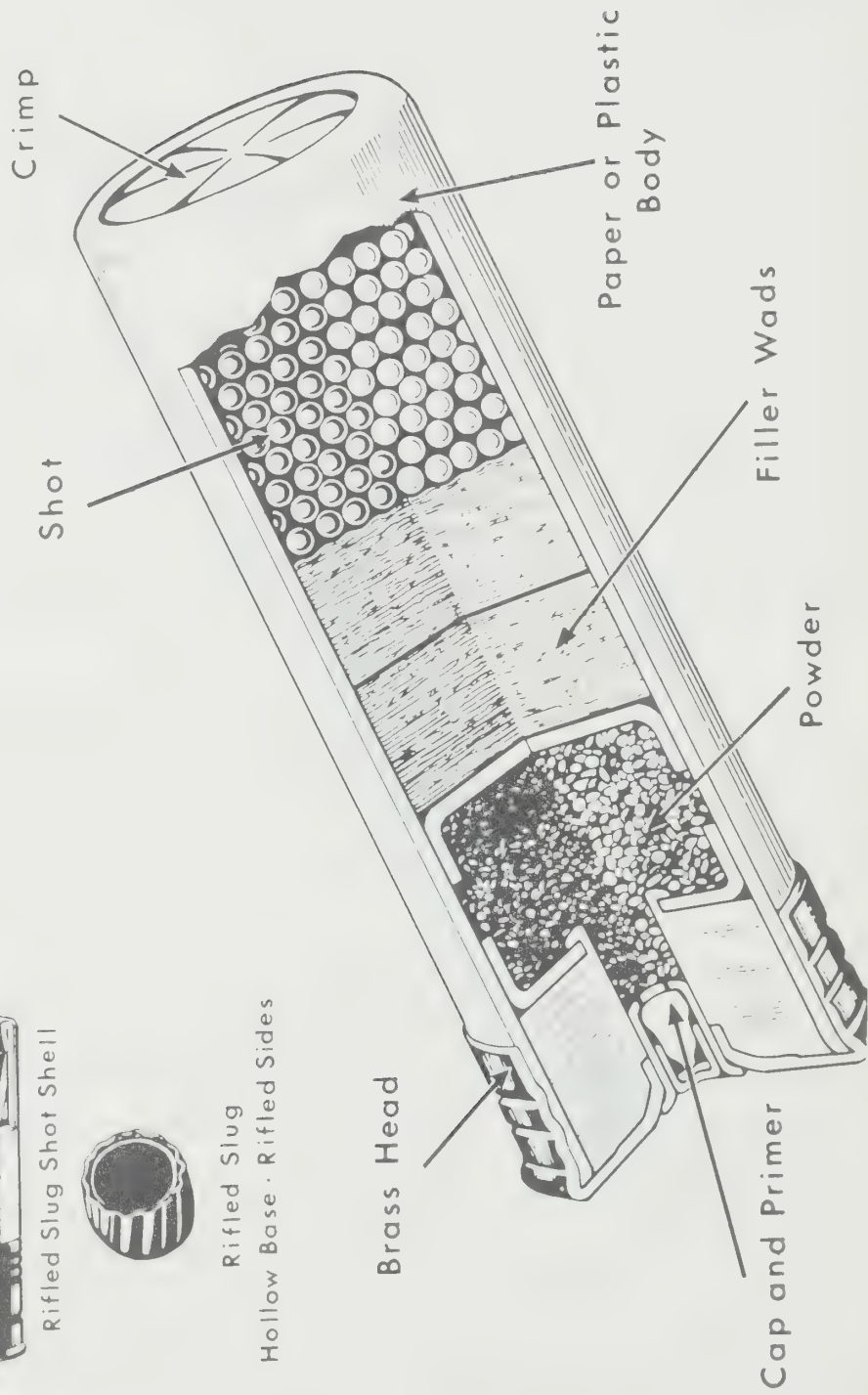
SHOTGUN SHELLS



Rifled Slug Shot Shell



Rifled Slug
Hollow Base - Rifled Sides



Most 12 gauge shotguns are chambered for a 2¾" shell. A 3" magnum shell will fit in most 2¾" chambers, but when it is fired, the mouth of the case is not permitted to open up sufficiently to allow free passage of the charge of shot past the forcing cone, which lies just ahead of the chamber. This acts in the same manner as any other obstruction in a gun barrel, usually bursting the barrel with consequent injury to the shooter and possibly to anyone with him.

Although either a rifle or a shotgun could be called a "gun," the term is commonly applied to a shotgun only.

Some calibres of rifle ammunition are so similar in size that they can actually be placed in the chamber of a rifle designed for another calibre and fired. This can be extremely dangerous due to the excessive pressure created in the cartridge case when not fully supported by the ill-fitting chamber. The result can be a fatal injury to the shooter and the destruction of the rifle when the cartridge case is ruptured.

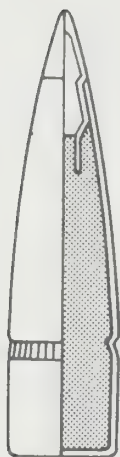
SAFETY NOTES

When crushed, or when struck with a hammer or stone, ammunition can burst when it goes off, as the cartridge is not strong enough to contain the pressure generated except when it is supported within the chamber made for it. Bits of metal from the primer or case can injure you seriously in this situation. Never strike ammunition with a rock, and never drop it into a fire.

Never use modern shot shells in a shotgun with "Damascus" barrels. They were made for shells using black powder, only, and can be quite dangerous with modern ammunition. They can usually be detected by the figured design on the barrels formed by the method of their manufacture.

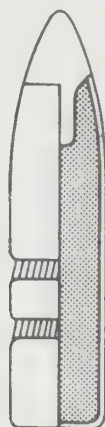
*See page 29 "Beware old guns".

B U L L E T S



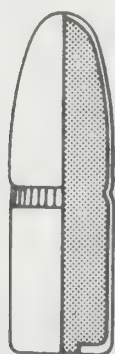
COPPER POINT EXPANDING

Special Nose Construction
Penetrating and Mushrooming
Sustained High Velocity
Long Range Accuracy
Open Country



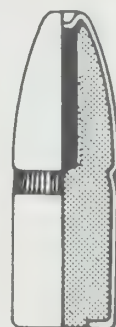
HARD POINT

Thick-Jacketed
Durable Nylon Tip
Excellent Expansion
Fine Accuracy
For Big Game



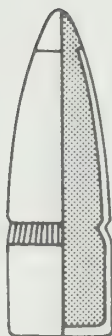
METAL CASED(HARD POINT)

Maximum Penetration—
Without Mushrooming
Causes Less Hide and
Tissue Damage



PNEUMATIC

Enclosed Air Pocket
Specially Designed—
Jacket
Rapid Mushrooming
Shocking Power



POINTED SOFT POINT

High Velocity
Flattened Trajectory
Accurate
Excellent Mushrooming

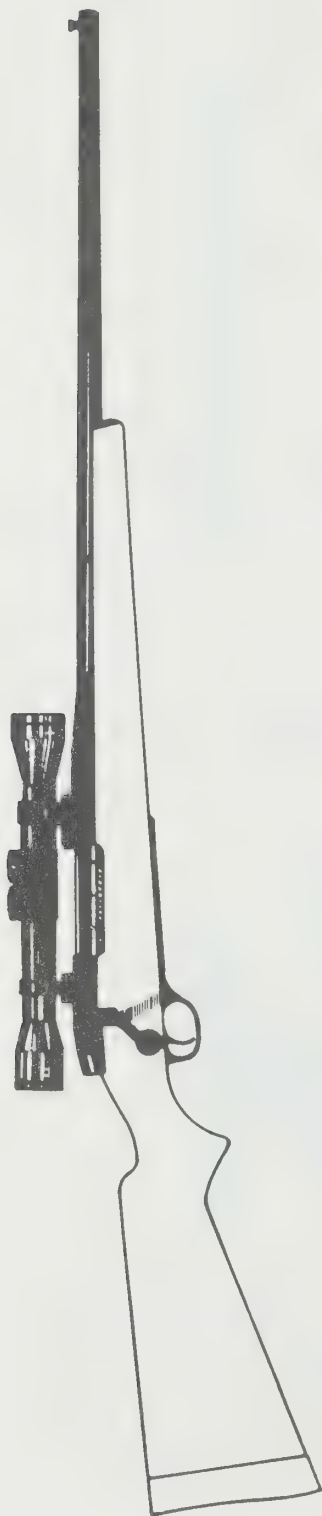


SOFT POINT

Jacketed in Metal
Round or Flat Lead Nose
Dependable Favourite for
Lower Velocity Calibre

SHOT PATTERN





THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT.... Gives magnified view, sharp focus reticle shows exact point of aim when held on target.

TELESCOPIC RETICLES

Three shown here
are most popular



Cross
Hair

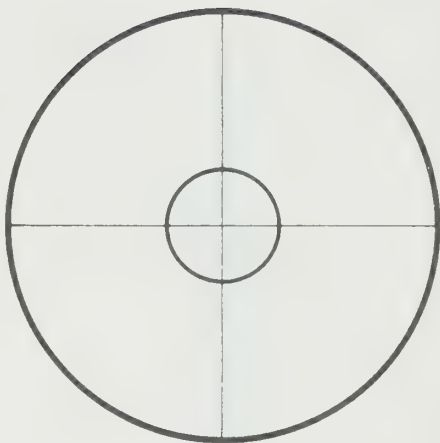


Cross Hair
Tapered Post



Tapered
Post

TELESCOPIC SIGHT



SIGHTS

Any rifle equipped with metallic sights must have both a front and rear sight. A rifle is aimed by means of the two sights, unlike a shotgun which is pointed.

Sights can be knocked out of alignment fairly easily. This occurs most frequently when the rifle is dropped, or if it falls over when leaned against a hard, smooth surface such as a wall or the side of a car. It is, therefore, necessary to sight-in any rifle frequently if you are to be reasonably sure of hitting what you are aiming at. Proper targets, set at known distances, should be used for all sighting-in.

Such objects as insulators on hydro or telephone poles should never be used as targets. Vandalism can cut off vital services such as hospitals and communications systems, sometimes for hours, with resultant danger and inconvenience to the general public. Vandalism is mainly responsible for the "No Hunting" signs posted around thousands of good hunting acres.

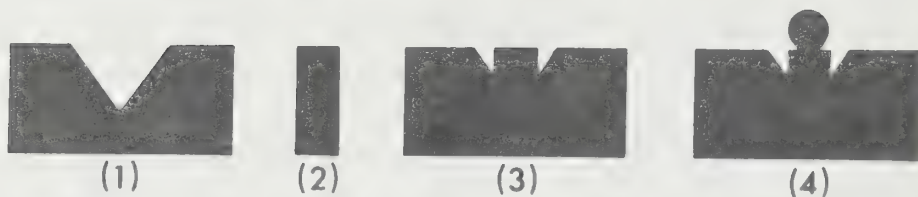
When sighting-in a rifle, if a proper range is not available, a sandpit or a hill free of rocks should be used to avoid the danger of a ricochet. Never use a stone quarry as a backstop.

An "open" rear sight is usually mounted on top of the barrel just forward of the receiver. This sight may have a "U" or "V" shaped notch cut in the top; it is usually mounted on a base having steps which permits the sight to be raised or lowered for aiming at greater or lesser distances. Modern open sights are usually adjustable for both elevation and windage (horizontal movement) by means of two set screws.

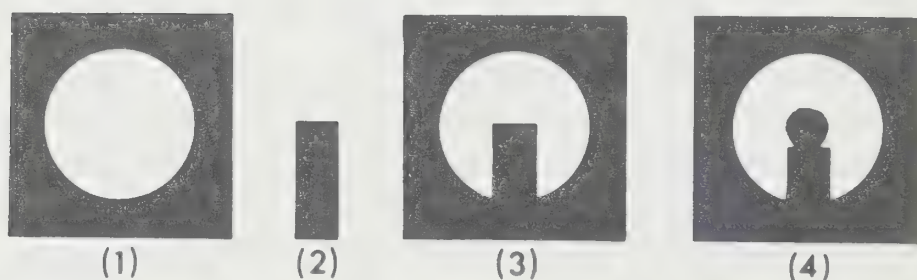
When moving a rear sight, either for elevation or windage, it must be moved in the direction you wish the bullet to go; if your shots are going to the left, the sight is moved to the right; if the shots are going low, the rear sight must be raised.

Other types of metallic rear sights are termed "receiver"

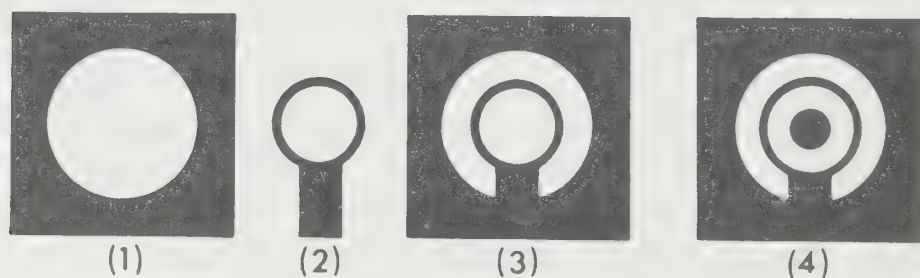
IRON SIGHTS



Open Sights



Aperture Rear Sight and Post Front Sight



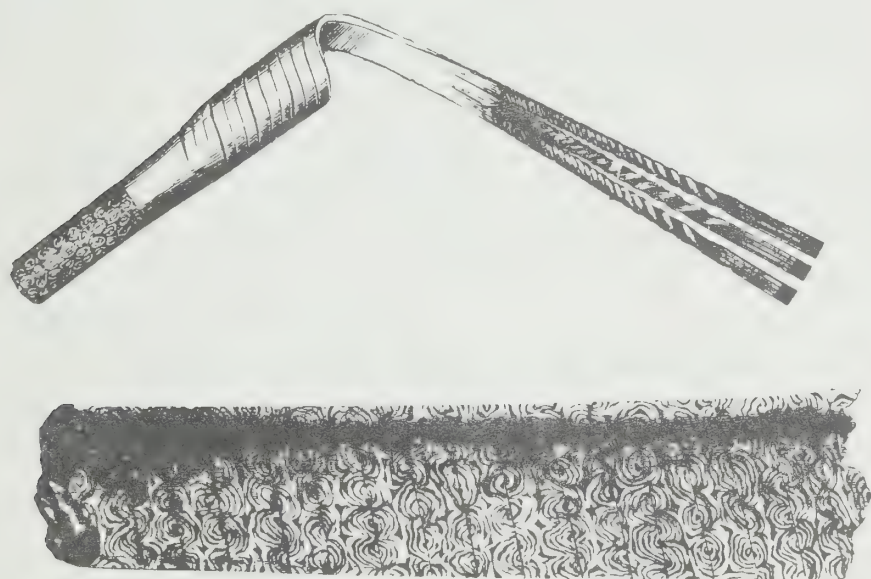
Aperture Rear and Front Sights

LEGEND

- 1 Rear Sight
- 2 Front Sight
- 3 Sights properly Aligned
- 4 Correct Sight Picture

and "tang" sights. In either case, they consist of a metal ring through which the shooter looks. The tang is a metal projection to the rear of the receiver which helps to hold the stock to the firearm.

Another popular type of sight for rifles is the "scope" or telescopic sight. It is never used for the purpose of spotting other hunters because, when so used, the muzzle of the rifle is also pointed at them.



BEWARE OLD GUNS

If you have fallen heir to a double-barrelled hammer gun, examine the barrels carefully. If there is a figured design on the outside of the barrels, please retire it to hang on a wall as a keepsake as it will undoubtedly have what is called "damascus", "stub and twist" or "twist steel" barrels and with such is unsafe to use with modern ammunition. Even if there is no design visible, a double-barrelled hammer gun should be taken to a good gunsmith to determine if it is safe to shoot with modern ammunition.

CARRYING POSITIONS

All carrying positions are based on the following general, safe hunting rule:— **CONTROL THAT MUZZLE.**

Carry the firearm so that the muzzle never points at anything you do not wish to shoot, and this does include any hunting companion.

It also includes yourself. In Ontario, over a period of six years, 34 per cent of the hunting accidents were self-inflicted. This means that you must always control the muzzle, so that even if you trip and fall, the muzzle will be pointing in a safe direction.

In falling, it is unwise to throw the firearm because in doing so you lose control of it. When it hits the ground, it may discharge, and the muzzle may be pointing at you or a companion.

The carrying positions (described below) may all be used when hunting alone, but they must be varied when hunting with others to suit the current situation, always keeping in mind that the muzzle must always be under control so that it never points at anything you do not want to shoot. When following behind another hunter, your firearm should be unloaded, but even so, you must never let the muzzle point at him. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.

When two or more hunters are hunting abreast, such as “walking up” pheasants, the man on the left should carry his shotgun cradled on his left arm, “at the ready,” or with the muzzle pointed straight ahead, never letting it point toward his companion on the right. If there is a third man in the middle, his firearm should always be pointed ahead. The one on the right should ensure that his muzzle points either ahead or to the right. In this case, he may carry it cradled on his right arm. In any situation, always handle your gun so that you have com-

plete control of the muzzle.

If a pheasant should fly back over the heads of hunters walking abreast, or if a rabbit should run back through the line, no hunter should fire.

A hunter must always be conscious of, and considerate of, others in the field. If this concept were followed, there would be fewer accidents in the hunting field.

It is essential that you always make sure of your target, what is behind it, and that you are shooting in a safe manner.

All firearms will kill. Therefore, one must never be involved with horseplay when handling them.

By treating every gun as being loaded, you are showing that you have sense enough to handle firearms.

Even experienced hunters should be constantly aware of the necessity for checking their target carefully before firing.

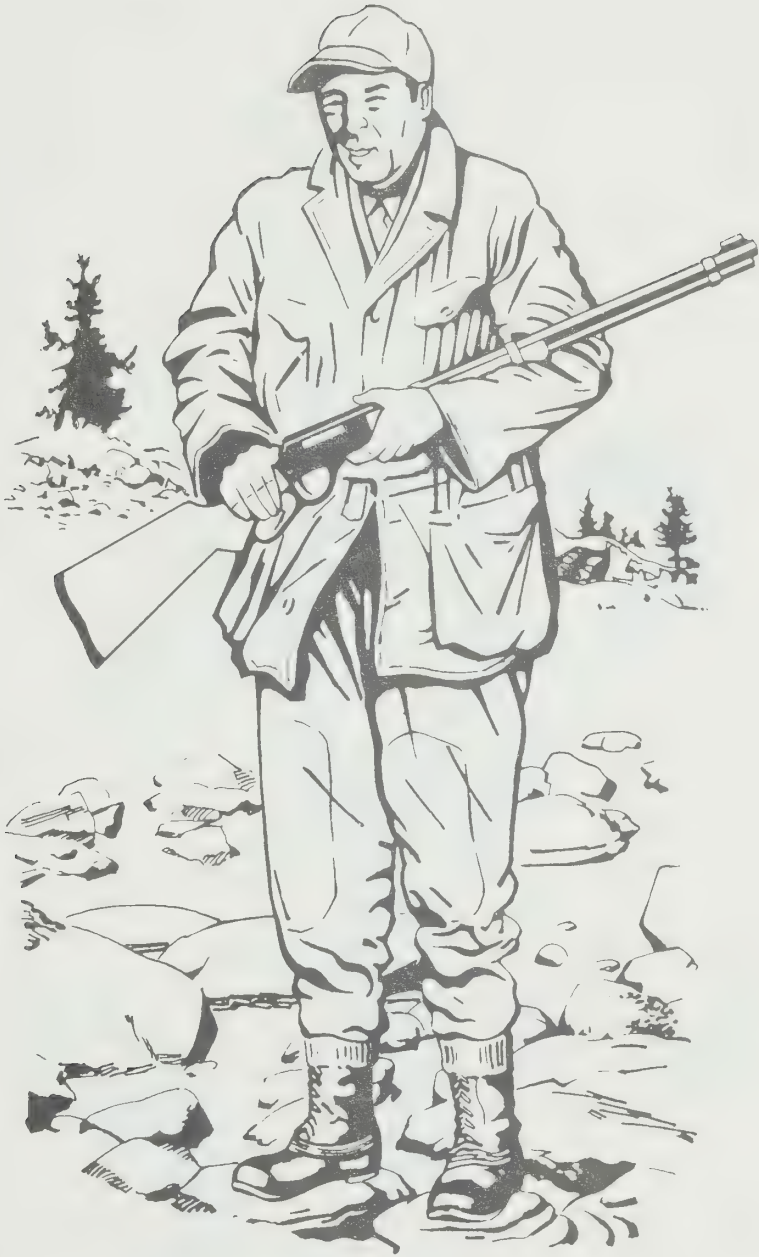
An experienced target shot may still be unsafe in the hunting field unless he has been trained in the concepts of safe hunting and follows them.

A hunter can be charged for endangering persons or property by the careless handling of his firearm.





TWO-HANDED or "READY" CARRY. This is the one most used when actively hunting game on foot, such as traversing a field while hunting pheasants. The gun is held as shown in the accompanying illustration of a right-handed hunter—left hand holding fore-end so that muzzle is elevated across body from right to left, and right hand grasping firearm at grip with fingers outside trigger-guard until the instant he is ready to shoot. A left-handed shooter would, of course, have the hands reversed.



CRADLE CARRY. Grip held by hand, gun cradled in crook of other arm, and muzzle pointing up and away from body. It should not be used when walking abreast except by hunter on extreme left of line, or by a left-handed hunter, in which case the muzzle would be pointed to the right and the southpaw could take the extreme right position.



SIDE CARRY. Hooked over forearm with muzzle pointing to ground just ahead of your foot. It is not to be used when walking behind anyone.



TRAIL CARRY. At side, with hand at point of balance, and with muzzle pointed forward and toward ground. It may be used by lead-off man or when walking in line abreast.



SLING CARRY. This is a very convenient method of carrying a firearm, particularly when returning from a hunt when it might be necessary to use one hand to drag deer. In this method, the sling is placed over either shoulder. With the muzzle pointing straight up at the back of the shoulder, the sling is grasped by the hand on the weapon side to retain it in its position so that the firearm does not slide from its place.



SHOULDER CARRY. The firearm is placed on the shoulder with the barrel pointed upward to the rear, and the grip (small of the stock) grasped with the hand. It is not considered a good carry because its position can never be secure. This carry should only be used when hunting alone.

Another type of shoulder carry has contributed to numerous severe or fatal accidents; and that is placing the gun on the

shoulder with the stock over the shoulder, and grasping the barrel with the hand. In case of a fall, the stock usually swings forward and brings the muzzle in direct line with the body with consequent serious results should the gun go off.

CROSSING OBSTACLES

A firearm should always be unloaded before attempting to cross a fence, stream or other major obstacles.

If alone when crossing a fence, a firearm should be unloaded, placed through the fence with the muzzle elevated so that it will not pick up snow, etc. The hunter should then proceed to a solid post, removed from the location of the gun, climb over at the post and retrieve the firearm.

When a party of hunters come to a fence, each man points his gun in a safe direction and unloads. Then, all but one hunter cross the fence at a solid post or crawl beneath it if there is a sufficiently large space. The hunter, remaining with the guns, then hands them over the fence and follows, himself.

When crossing a stream, climbing a steep bank, etc., it is obvious that each man must carry his own firearm, but it should be unloaded.

The safety, being a mechanical device and subject to failure, must never be trusted. It is, therefore, essential that the unloading procedure be complied with in case the hunter should stumble or fall in any of the above-mentioned situations.

When loading or unloading a firearm, the muzzle must always be pointed in a safe direction.

When you hand a firearm to someone ensure that it is unloaded and the action is open.

GUN SAFETY IN THE HOME

The hunter's responsibility starts the instant he touches a gun, whether at home or in the field. He is responsible not only for his own safety but also for that of anyone who might be endangered by the way in which he handles a firearm. If he observes someone else handling a firearm carelessly, he should let him know the danger to himself and others caused by his carelessness.

The following rules apply particularly to firearms in the home:—

- (i) Never permit a loaded gun to be taken into any building.
- (ii) Immediately on picking up any firearm, point the muzzle in a safe direction, open the action and check both the chamber and magazine to make sure they are empty.
- (iii) Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- (iv) Never point a firearm at anything you do not want to shoot.
- (v) Do not allow any firearm, including an air gun, to be used as a toy.
- (vi) Teach your children that firearms are potentially dangerous, but also keep them out of reach and, if possible, locked up. Do not leave the keys to your gun cabinet where they may be easily accessible to children or irresponsible adults.
- (vii) Your ammunition should be locked up in a cool, dry place and separate from your firearms.
- (viii) If you are shown a gun with an action or design with which you are not familiar, ask the owner to demonstrate how to open the action and prove that it is unloaded.
- (ix) Guns should be stored in a horizontal position. If they are stored "butt" down, oil may drain from the barrel into the chamber and/or action. This could cause undue pressure in the chamber or a malfunction of the action when you next fire the gun.

(x) Firearms should not be stacked in a corner or against any hard surface because of the danger of falling and consequent damage to sights, etc.

(xi) Any antique or souvenir firearms, cartridges, etc., should be checked by a competent gunsmith to make sure they are safe. Your Police Department can give you advice on the disposal of explosive or unwanted items.

(xii) Never pull the trigger to check if a gun is loaded or to release the action lock.

CLEANING A FIREARM

Occasionally one hears of, or reads about, a person who has been shot while cleaning a gun. This could not happen to a safety-conscious, safety-trained hunter. Consider again the rules for home safety with guns:— Never pick up a gun without immediately pointing the muzzle in a safe direction and checking both the chamber and magazine to see if they are empty; never permit a loaded gun to be taken into any building It is difficult to understand how an accident could happen while cleaning a firearm if these rules have been followed.

If possible, a firearm should be cleaned from the breech, rather than from the muzzle. If, however, the gun is of a type such as a solid-frame, pump action or auto loading repeater, it may be necessary to clean from the muzzle if using a cleaning rod. In this case, the breech must first be locked open to permit passage of the cleaning rod completely through the barrel.

When cleaning a bolt action, completely remove the bolt and clean from the breech. Hinge or takedown models offer easy and safe access for cleaning by removing the barrel.

If using a pull-through in a solid-frame firearm, the breech must be locked open to insert the pull-through.

CLEANING PROCEDURE

It is important to use a cleaning patch of the right size. If it is too large, it may become lodged in the barrel and be very difficult to remove. If this should occur, the safest remedy is to take the rifle to a competent gunsmith. Never attempt to shoot any obstruction out of a barrel. It is dangerous and foolhardy as the barrel will invariably burst.

Saturate a patch of the correct size with a good gun solvent and pass it through the barrel. It may be necessary to follow with several additional patches until there is no trace of powder fouling on the patch.

Next, put a small amount of a good gun oil on a patch and push it through the barrel.

The gun should now be placed in a horizontal position on a gun rack. This is to prevent oil from the barrel from gradually seeping into the action, as might happen if the gun is stood on its butt in an upright position.

OFF—SEASON STORAGE

If the gun is not to be used for a considerable length of time, it is advisable to coat the bore and all exposed metal parts with a thin film of a good gun grease. Before using a firearm, excess oil or grease must be removed from the inside of the barrel; otherwise, there is danger of bursting the barrel from the pressure generated when a bullet is fired through it.

Never plug the muzzle of a gun as this may set up condensation and start the rusting process. The hunter may also forget to remove the plug when the firearm is used again with the danger of blowing the muzzle off the gun. A graphic illustration of condensation is seen when a gun is brought into a warm room after a day afield in a cold temperature. When condensation, mist, rain or snow is involved, the firearm should be stripped down and completely cleaned and oiled.

Before hunting, make sure that the action works and that the barrel is clean. Check that the firearm is in a safe condition to shoot and that the ammunition is in good condition.

SAFETY IN BOW HUNTING

It is just as important for bow hunters to observe the common-sense rules of hunter safety as for the hunter who uses a firearm.

An arrow, glancing from the side of a tree or hard surface, has the same dangerous features as a ricocheting bullet. A broadhead, shot from a hunting bow, has often been known to pass completely through an adult buck.

An arrow, notched to a bowstring while in the immediate vicinity of other people, can be just as lethal as a loaded firearm, held as carelessly.

Broadheads with exposed heads can be dangerous. Use a quiver equipped with a protective cover.

Walking through heavy cover, with an arrow nocked to the bowstring, can cause a self-inflicted injury to the careless hunter, should he stumble.

Continuing to hunt with a frayed bowstring, that may break as you shoot, can also cause an unpleasant accident.

A cracked shaft, a loose nock, loose point, or fletching may send the arrow far off its path, with the possibility of injuring those close by, or even the shooter, himself.

Never release an arrow unless you can see its full path to the target.

Positively identify the target before drawing the bow.

In the field, the arrow should be kept in shooting position, but great care should be taken to avoid pointing it at anyone.

The nocked arrow should be drawn back tight against the string and locked in place against the bow with the index finger of the bow hand. This makes it possible to draw instantly, but the shaft cannot be released instantly.

Broadheads must be kept very sharp, but give them the

respect that you would give to very sharp knives.

The bowstring must be heavy enough for the bow, or frequent breakage will occur.

When you stop for any purpose, return the arrow to the quiver.

Never take a bow and arrow in the shooting position into any house.

Do not attempt to run, walk a log, or deliberately try bad footing with the arrow in shooting position.

Never point the arrow at any part of the body when positioned on the bowstring.

Note: Check your Summary of Hunting Regulations for information regarding minimum standards for bow hunting equipment.

HUNTER—LANDOWNER RELATIONS

Let's consider your Small Game Hunting Licence and what it means. First, it is your authority to carry a firearm for the purpose of hunting small game in season. It does not give you the authority to go on, or hunt on, private land without permission.

Approximately 86 per cent of Ontario's land is Crown land, but unfortunately for the hunter, patented land surrounds the large centres of population in southern Ontario and is subjected to the heaviest hunting pressure. This means that a high percentage of hunters in Ontario must ask for permission from landowners to hunt on their property.

It is a good idea to contact a number of farmers in the area where you propose to hunt and ask permission before the hunting season starts. This permits you to plan your hunts in advance, and it is a convenience to the landowners. If you are refused permission, accept the refusal with good grace as the landowner may have a good reason for his refusal.

Use the utmost consideration for the landowner who

does let you hunt on his property. In this regard, you might observe the following:

Do not block laneways or access to any buildings when you park your car.

Never shoot near buildings or livestock.

Make every effort to control your dog when in the vicinity of stock or farm buildings.

Never use mail boxes, buildings (old or new), water troughs, farm machinery, or any other equipment on the farm as targets.

Use gates wherever possible to cross fence lines and leave them as you found them.

If there is no gate available near where you wish to cross a fence, cross at a post, after first trying the post to determine if it is strong enough to hold your weight, or crawl under the fence if you find a suitable opening.

Never walk through standing or growing crops, and keep **your dog out of them.**

If you should inadvertently damage anything on the property, report it to the owner and offer to pay for the damage or help to repair it.

Report all acts of vandalism to the landowner concerned and/or the Provincial Police. This is not only your duty but it will also aid in protecting your own hunting privileges.

Respect the landowner's rights and property and attempt to be friends with him. It will usually pay off, not only in a new friendship but in many hours of hunting pleasure.

If you are lucky in the hunt, offer to share your game with the landowner. After all, he has helped to raise it.

When the landowner gives permission to hunt, it gives him the opportunity to let you know the location of his stock so that you may avoid that particular area. He may also tell you where he has observed the type of game you are hunting.

SPORTSMANSHIP

A good sportsman is a hunter who has a high code of ethics. This means that, when armed with a shotgun, he does not shoot a sitting grouse or a duck on the water. He refuses to take a shot at a duck or goose before it is within range, as he might wound the bird with an inadequate shot pattern, or he might spoil a shot for another hunter. He would not shoot at a pheasant when the bird is in the angle of fire of his hunting companion, nor would he claim game that he did not shoot. He knows that the game laws are made for the benefit of all hunters and obeys them. When he shoots at game, he checks carefully to determine whether he made a clean miss or wounded it, and if the latter, he makes every effort to follow and despatch it humanely. He accepts the responsibility for all his actions, even his mistakes.

He does not measure his hunting success by the amount of game he kills. He looks for and enjoys the many other values in hunting: the intangible values of relaxation, fresh air, new knowledge, and good companions that can complement any hunting trip.

GOOD HUNTING MANNERS

These are based primarily on courtesy, safety and common sense. When approaching a landowner or another hunter in the field, "break" your shotgun or open the breech, so that he is under no misapprehension as to your intentions toward him. Even with the breech open, never permit the muzzle to point at him. If you stop to talk, or rest, unload your firearm and put it to one side until you are ready to resume hunting. Never rest a gun against a hard, smooth surface, such as the side of a motor vehicle, where a gust of wind may dislodge it.

Camp rules in deer hunting are included in this chapter

because it invariably entails group hunting. Where a group is concerned, safe and good hunting manners are particularly important.

Most deer hunting camps have definite rules of conduct, the list usually being fastened to the hunt club wall for all the members to read. A member or guest who violates the rules laid down is most unpopular with his hunting companions. The following is a typical list:—

CAMP RULES

1. When proceeding to your deer watch, lead man only of the party is to have his firearm loaded.

2. Each member of a hunting party must stay at his watch until picked up by the rest of the party returning to camp.

3. All firearms, except that of the lead man, to be unloaded when leaving watch to return to camp.

4. Lead man to unload his firearm at a prearranged spot just outside the camp area.

5. All firearms to be placed outside the camp building with actions open, until they can be checked by member appointed by Captain of the hunt, after which they may be brought into living quarters for cleaning, etc.

6. Ammunition must never be put into firearms in camp.

7. All alcoholic beverages to be under control of Captain of the hunt, who may issue them after the hunt each day to those who require them.

8. Each man to do camp chores allocated to him by Captain.

The rules will vary from camp to camp. The important point is that every hunt camp should have a set of rules agreed on by all the members.

PERSONAL SAFETY IN THE FIELD

COLOUR

Although certain colours are recommended, it is most strongly emphasized that it is the responsibility of the hunter to positively identify his target as game.

In Ontario, hunters are not compelled to wear any specific colour, but it is the prime responsibility of every hunter to ensure that he is recognizable, and that he in turn can recognize another hunter as such.

The wearing of coloured clothing that is conspicuous is advocated. Comprehensive tests have indicated that fluorescent orange is a most visible colour, particularly during the early morning or late evening hours of hunting. During these critical hours, the hunter's red, which has been used for so many years, becomes just another dark colour. Tests have indicated that yellow has a high visibility factor, but looked at through yellow shooting glasses, which so many hunters use today, this colour is indistinguishable from white.

Particularly in deer hunting, the wearing of any item containing white can be extremely dangerous. Such items would include white-topped socks, a white handkerchief, or a white scarf. Any one of these might be mistaken for the flash of a white tail in deer hunting territory. Never forget that the most conspicuous part of the deer, when alarmed, is the underside of the tail, which he erects as he bounds off.

Camouflaged or neutral-coloured clothing is necessary in a duck or crow blind, but for any other type of hunting, bright colours should be worn.

BOATS

Guns must be unloaded before being transported in any powered boat. Unloaded guns should be stowed securely in the boat so that they will not be jarred loose through a sudden turn of the boat, or if rough water should be encountered.

When two hunters are about to travel by motor boat, their guns should be unloaded; one hunter then boards the boat to stow the unloaded guns securely when they are handed to him by his companion on shore.

Two hunters, hunting from a boat, should position themselves so that they are sitting back-to-back.

When two hunters are jump-shooting ducks from a paddled canoe, only the front man should have his gun loaded, and he must be very careful that the muzzle never points at any part of the boat.

Never fire from a boat unless you are seated.

When loading or unloading firearms in a boat, the muzzle must always be pointed in a safe direction, away from another hunter, a dog or the boat itself.

Know the capacity of your boat and never overload it.

Note: Never shoot from a power boat except as provided in the regulations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

SURVIVAL

When going into a strange area to hunt, it is a good idea, if possible, to familiarize yourself with the territory for at least three miles in every direction from your permanent camp before the hunt. This will give you a better knowledge of game trails, location of game, etc. Remember that when you face north, east is always on your right. The recognized distress signal in the woods is three shots fired in succession, three smoke signals, etc.

If you do get lost, don't panic. More lost hunters have been injured from panic than for any other cause.

When you discover that you are lost, stay where you are. If you keep moving, it will be more difficult for a search party to find you. If you smoke, sit down and have one; at the same time, try to retrace your route in your mind to see if you can determine where you first went astray. To sit down and smoke may help to keep you calm, but it is always dangerous to smoke while walking in the bush, as you can create a serious fire hazard.

While staying in one place, keep occupied. Build a shelter in case you may have to stay there for the night. Conserve your energy.

If you have a fire going when found, make sure that it is dead out before you and the rescue party leave. The same applies to a fire you may have on a deer watch. Never leave a fire unattended in the bush. It can cause a forest fire that may destroy your camp and eliminate your hunting in the area for years.

GAME LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The purpose of most wildlife laws is to:

- (1) protect and conserve wildlife,
- (2) protect human life and property,
- (3) prescribe certain standards of conduct for hunters and other users of the outdoors.

Laws are made for the benefit and protection of the people they serve. They are established by a legislative authority and enforced by the courts.

In Canada, three levels of government make laws which affect hunting. These are the Parliament of Canada, the Provincial Legislature, and the Municipal Councils.

The Parliament of Canada and the Provincial Legislature pass Acts and regulations, while Municipal Councils in Ontario have the authority to pass by-laws prohibiting the discharge of firearms. They may also, if authorized by the Minister of Natural Resources, pass by-laws for issuing and fixing the maximum number and fees of licences to hunt pheasants and rabbits.

The Acts, and the regulations made under them, that pertain to firearms and hunting are:

The Criminal Code of Canada (Firearms Section)

Migratory Birds Convention Act (Canada)

The Game and Fish Act (Ontario)

The Endangered Species Act (Ontario)

The Occupiers' Liability Act (Ontario)

The Trespass to Property Act (Ontario)

Copies of these Acts, and the regulations made under them, may be obtained from Government book stores (Federal and Provincial). Information about specific Municipal by-laws may be obtained directly from the office of the municipality concerned.

You should study the annual Summary of Hunting Regulations for Ontario each year before you go hunting. Remember it is the responsibility of every hunter to know the Federal, Provincial and Municipal laws which apply when hunting in Ontario.

HUNTING ACCIDENTS

Every Canadian should be interested in the ability to handle a firearm well because shooting is a pleasant, healthy sport. It can also be a dangerous sport if the rules for hunting safely are ignored. Most hunting accidents are caused by carelessness. It is hoped that the course you are taking, followed by the required examination, will give you a lifetime of safety and pleasure in the hunting field.

Hunting accidents are classified in two categories, intentional and unintentional discharge of firearms.

INTENTIONAL DISCHARGE

Topping the list under "Intentional discharge" is one of the oldest and most common: "Mistaken for game." It is hard to visualize a resemblance between a man and a rabbit, grouse or duck. It is even more difficult to see a resemblance between a man dressed in bright clothing (even including a fluorescent vest and hat) and a deer or moose. Yet, during the last few years, hunters have been shot in mistake for rabbits, ground-hogs, grouse, ducks, deer, bear and moose. Hunters should never carry any species of game over their shoulder. In many shooting accidents, hunters have been wearing bright-coloured hunting clothing. Sometimes, they have been shot while riding in brightly coloured boats. **BE SURE THAT YOUR TARGET IS LEGAL GAME BEFORE YOU SHOOT.**

Following in sequence are the other causes listed under "Intentional discharge."

- (B) Victim out of sight of shooter.
- (C) Victim hit by shooter swinging on game.
- (D) Victim moved into line of fire.

Some accidents in (B) were caused by ricochets. The greatest marksman in the world has no control over a bullet that is ricocheting. A bullet can ricochet when hitting water, a rock, even hard soil, and certainly any flat surface. In many of the cases, the shooter was not sure of his backstop, the bullet or shot travelling through brush and hitting another hunter out of sight of the shooter.

Be sure that you know where every member of your hunting party is located. When shooting game birds in heavy cover with a shotgun, limit your shots to not less than a 30-degree vertical angle.

A .22 cal. rifle is dangerous up to one mile. A shot taken at a crow in the top of a tall tree can travel a great distance beyond that point and still be dangerous. The shooter in this case cannot possibly see where the bullet will hit.

(C) Most of this type of accident happens when two or more hunters are walking abreast. The shooter, when swinging on game appearing in front of him, ignores his companion on either side by concentrating on the game, with the result that the muzzle will eventually cover the other hunter.

(D) This type also involves hunters walking abreast. In this case, however, one or more of his companions fail to keep in line, so that when a shot presents itself, the shooter finds one of his companions in line with the gun and the game. This situation can happen in open coverts, but it also happens when heavy brush must be traversed by the in-line hunters, with the result that one or more may move ahead of the line because of lack of visibility.

UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE

(a) "Shooter stumbled and fell." This one cause constitutes the greatest number of all hunting accidents. It involves either poor training in the proper way to carry a firearm, or carelessness, or both. More often than not, it causes the wounding or death of a hunter other than the one holding the gun. Its correction can come from proper training, followed by attention to the methods taught. It is always dangerous to run while carrying a loaded firearm.

(b) "Trigger caught on clothing, brush, etc." This involves carrying the firearm at full-cock and with the "safety" in the "fire" position, which allows the gun to be fired, unintentionally wounding or killing a person other than the one carrying the gun.

(c) "Didn't know it was loaded: horseplay." This occurs most often when a group is hunting together. The use of alcohol while hunting has been known to cause warped judgement. It can be caused by ignorance of safe gun handling; by carelessness in neglecting to unload firearms prior to joining a group; and sometimes by leaning a loaded firearm against a hard smooth surface, such as the side of a car, where a gust of wind can send the gun toppling to the ground where it may fire. Remember that unattended guns must always be unloaded. Never permit a gun to point at anything you do not wish to shoot.

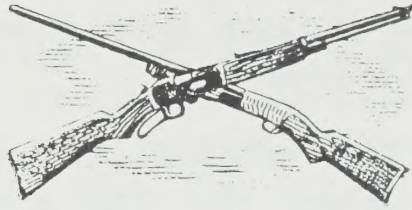
(d) "Loaded firearm in vehicle." The motion or vibration of the vehicle may cause the gun to fire. A dog may step on the trigger with the same result. It is contrary to The Game and Fish Act to have a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle, aircraft or power boat.

(e) "Defective firearm." The following "defectives" are commonly noted in guns, involved in hunting accidents:

Safeties that do not function properly, worn sears, hair triggers, no trigger guard, Damascus barrel, blown barrels, cracked stocks, and loose fore-ends.

(f) "Crossing fence with loaded firearm" has quite often caused a fatal accident when fence or post has collapsed, throwing hunter to the ground, or when a gun has dropped from hunter's hand and discharged when he tripped on fence. Another cause of a fatal accident is when a hunter leaves a loaded gun against a fence and then climbs the fence at that point.

Training in the various phases of hunter safety, together with the use of common sense in the hunting field, will make hunting a safe and enjoyable sport. Hunting accidents should not happen.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. TREAT EVERY GUN AS IF IT WERE A LOADED GUN. This is the primary and perhaps the most important rule for all gun handlers to follow.
2. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET BEFORE YOU SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER. The hunter should positively identify his target and ensure that there is a safe backstop before firing.
3. NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO KILL. Avoid all horseplay while handling a gun. Guns are not toys and should never be pointed at others even when they are not loaded.
4. ALWAYS CARRY YOUR GUN SO THAT THE MUZZLE IS UNDER CONTROL. By safe gun carries, the hunter controls the muzzle even if he stumbles or trips. The trigger is sometimes released by a sudden jar. Unless the hunter knows where the muzzle is pointed, he or a companion may be a casualty.

5. GUNS MUST ALWAYS BE UNLOADED WHEN CARRIED INTO CAMP OR WHEN NOT IN USE. Actions should be opened, or guns taken down, when you have completed the hunt. Recheck your gun before entering the camp. Guns should be carried in cases to the shooting area.

6. MAKE SURE THAT BARREL AND ACTION ARE CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS. If the muzzle touches the ground, or snow, always check immediately after unloading. Remove oil and grease from the bore before firing. Only carry ammunition for the gun you are using.

7. UNATTENDED GUNS SHOULD BE UNLOADED. Guns and ammunition should be stored separately beyond the reach of children or careless adults. During lunch breaks or when stopping to talk to a landowner, etc., put guns aside after unloading.

8. NEVER CLIMB A FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN. Place gun on other side of fence, if alone, and climb the fence at another place that is suitable. Never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle. Stay out of trees during the hunting season.

9. NEVER SHOOT AT FLAT OR HARD OBJECTS OR THE SURFACE OF WATER. No one can control the direction of a ricochet. Be sure of your backstop.

10. AVOID ALCOHOL DRINKS WHILE HUNTING. Drinking, before or during the hunt, dulls the vision, distorts the aim and impairs the judgement. If you drink, wait until the hunt is over before imbibing.

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THEY'RE COSTLY.
PREVENT THEM.**

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